

INAUGURAL ADDRESS OF PRESIDENT HARDING

**America Anxious to Participate
in Any Seemly Program Likely
to Lessen Probability of War
and Promote World Peace.**

ASSOCIATION FOR COUNSEL

**Make Offensive Warfare So Hateful
That Governments and Peoples Who
Resort to It Must Prove the Right-
eousness of Their Cause or Stand as
Outlaws Before Bar of Civilization.**

Washington.—The Inaugural Address of President Warren G. Harding was as follows:

My countrymen—When one surveys the world about him after the great storm, noting the marks of destruction and yet rejoicing in the ruggedness of the things which withstood it, if he is an American he breathes the clarified atmosphere with a strange mingling of regret and new hope. We have seen a world passion spend its fury, but we contemplate a republic unshaken and hold our civilization secure. Liberty—liberty within the law—and civilization are inseparable, and, though both were threatened, we find them now secure; and there comes to Americans the profound assurance that our representative government is the highest expression and surest guaranty of both.

Standing in this presence, mindful of the solemnity of this occasion, feeling the emotions which no one may know until he senses the great weight of responsibility for himself, I must utter my belief in the divine inspiration of the founding fathers. Surely there must have been God's intent in the making of this new world republic. Ours is an organic law which had but one ambiguity, and we saw that effaced in a baptism of sacrifice and blood, with union maintained, the nation supreme and its concord inspiring. We have seen the world rivet its hopeful gaze on the great truths on which the founders wrought. We have seen civil, human and religious liberty verified and glorified. In the beginning, the old world scoffed at our experiment; today our foundations of political and social belief stand unshaken, a precious inheritance to ourselves, an inspiring example of freedom and civilization to all mankind. Let us express renewed and strengthened devotion in grateful reverence for the immortal beginning and utter our confidence in the supreme fulfillment.

Progress Proves Wisdom

The recorded progress of our republic, materially and spiritually, itself proves the wisdom of the inherited policy of noninvolvement in old world affairs. Confident of our ability to work out our own destiny and jealously guarding our right to do so, we seek no part in directing the destinies of the old world. We do not mean to be entangled, we will accept no responsibility except as our own conscience and judgment, in each instance, may determine.

Our eyes never will be blind to a developing menace, our ears never deaf to the call of civilization. We recognize the new order in the world, with the closer contacts which progress has wrought. We sense the call of the human heart for fellowship, fraternity and cooperation. We crave friendship and harbor no hate. But America—our America, the America built on the foundation laid by the inspired fathers, can be a party to no permanent military alliance, it can enter into no political commitments, nor assume any economic obligations which will subject our decisions to any other than our own authority. I am sure our people will not misunderstand, nor will the world misconstrue. We have no thought to impede the paths to closer relationship. We wish to promote understanding. We want to do our part in making offensive warfare so hateful that governments and peoples who resort to it must prove the righteousness of their cause or stand as outlaws before the bar of civilization.

Association for Counsel

We are ready to associate ourselves with the nations of the world, great and small, for conference, for counsel, to seek the expressed views of world opinion; to recommend a way to approximate disarmament and relieve the crushing burdens of military and naval establishments. We elect to participate in suggesting plans for mediation, conciliation and arbitration and would gladly join in that expressed conscience of progress which seeks to clarify and write the laws of international relationship and establish a world court for the disposition of such justiciable questions as nations are agreed to submit thereto. In expressing aspirations in seeking practical plans, in translating humanity's new concept of righteousness and justice and its hatred of war into recommended action we are ready most heartily to unite, but every commitment must be made in the exercise of our national sovereignty. Since freedom impelled and independence inspired and nationality exalted a world super-government is contrary

to everything we cherish and can have no sanction by our republic. This is not selfishness; it is sanctity. It is not aloofness; it is security. It is not suspicion of others; it is patriotic adherence to the things which made us what we are.

Today, better than ever before, we know the aspirations of human kind and share them. We have come to a new realization of our place in the world and new appraisal of our nation by the world. The selfishness of these United States is a thing proven, our devotion to peace for ourselves and for the world is well established, our concern for preserved civilization has had its impassioned and heroic expression. There was no American failure to resist the attempted reversion of civilization, there will be no failure today or tomorrow.

Rests on Popular Will

The success of our popular government rests wholly upon the correct interpretation of the deliberate, intelligent, dependable popular will of America. In a deliberate questioning of a suggested change of national policy where internationality was to supersede nationality we turned to a referendum to the American people. There was ample discussion, and there is a public mandate in manifest understanding.

America is ready to encourage, eager to initiate, anxious to participate in any seemly program likely to lessen the probability of war and promote that brotherhood of mankind which must be God's highest conception of human relationship. Because we cherish ideals of justice and peace, because we appraise international comity and helpful relationship no less highly than any people of the world, we aspire to a high place in moral leadership of civilization, and we hold maintained America, the proven republic, the unshaken temple of representative democracy, to be not only an inspiration and example, but the highest agency of strengthening good will and promoting accord on both continents.

Mankind needs a world wide benediction of understanding. It is needed among individuals, among peoples, among governments, and it will inaugurate an era of good feeling to mark a birth of a new order. Such understanding men will strive confidently for the promotion of their better relationships and nations will promote the comity so essential to peace.

Trade Ties Bind Closely

We must understand that ties of trade bind nations in closest intimacy and none may receive except as he gives. We have not strengthened ours in accordance with our resources or our genius, notably on our own continent, where a galaxy of republics reflect the glory of new world democracy, but in the new order of finance and trade we mean to promote enlarged activities and seek expanded confidence.

Perhaps we can make no more helpful contribution by example than prove a republic's capacity to emerge from the wreckage of war. While the world's embittered travail did not leave us devastated lands nor desolate cities, left no lasting wounds, no breast with hate, it did involve us in the delirium of expenditure, in expanded currency and credits, in unbalanced industry, in unspeakable waste and disturbed relationships. While it uncovered our portion of hateful selfishness at home, it also revealed the heart of America as sound and fearless and beating in confidence unflinching. Amid it all we have kindled the gaze of all civilization to the selfishness and the righteousness of representative democracy where our freedom has never made offensive warfare, has never sought territorial aggrandizement through force, never has turned to the arbitrament of arms until reason has been exhausted. When the governments of the earth shall have established a freedom like our own and shall have sanctioned the pursuit of peace as we have practiced it, I believe the last sorrow and the final sacrifice of international warfare will have been written.

Our supreme task is the resumption of our onward, normal way. Reconstruction, readjustment, restoration—all these must follow. I would like to hasten them if it will lighten the spirit and add to the resolution with which we take up the task. Let me repeat: For our nation we shall give no people just cause to make war upon us, we hold no national prejudices, we entertain no spirit of revenge, we do not hate, we do not covet, we dream of no conquest nor boast of armed prowess. If, despite this attitude, war is again forced upon us I earnestly hope a way may be found which will unify our individual and collective strength and consecrate all America materially and spiritually, body and soul, to national defense. I can vision the ideal republic where every man and woman is called under the flag for assignment to duty for whatever service, military or civil, the individual is best fitted; where we may call to universal service every plant, agency or facility, all in the sublime sacrifice for country, and not one penny of war profit shall inure to the benefit of private individual, corporation or combination, but all above the normal shall flow into the defense chest of the nation. There is something inherently wrong, something out of accord with the ideals of representative democracy when one portion of our citizenship turns its activities to private gain amid defensive war while another is fighting, sacrificing or dying for national preservation.

Unity of Spirit and Purpose

Out of such universal service will come a new unity of spirit and purpose, a new confidence and consecration, which would make our defense impregnable, our triumph assured. Then we should have little or no disorganization of our economic, industrial and commercial systems at home; no staggering war debts, no swollen fortunes to flout the sacrifices of our soldiers, no excuse for sedition, no pitiable slackness, no outrage of treason, envy and jealousy would have no soil for their menacing development, and revolution would be without the passion which engenders it; a regret for the mistakes of yesterday must not, however, blind us to the tasks of today. War never left such an aftermath, and there has been staggering loss of life and measureless wastage of materials. Nations are still groping for return to stable ways. Discouraging indebtedness confronts us like all the war-torn nations, and these obligations must be provided for. No civilization can survive repudiation.

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(Continued on Page Seven)

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FINAL SETTLEMENT

Take notice that on the 28th day of March, 1921, I will render a final account of my acts and doings as Administrator of the estate of Jim James deceased, in the office of the Judge of Probate of Laurens county, at 11 o'clock, a. m. and on the same day will apply for a final discharge from my trust as Administrator.

Any person indebted to said estate is notified and required to make payment on that date; and all persons having claims against said estate will present them on or before said date, duly proven or be forever barred.

C. A. POWER,

Administrator.

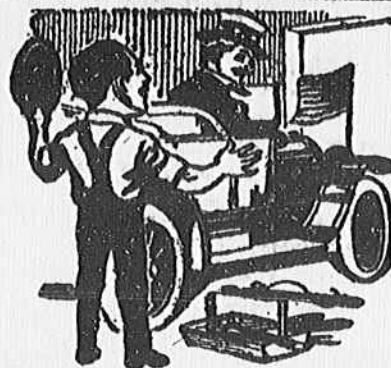
February 23, 1921.—1 mo.—A

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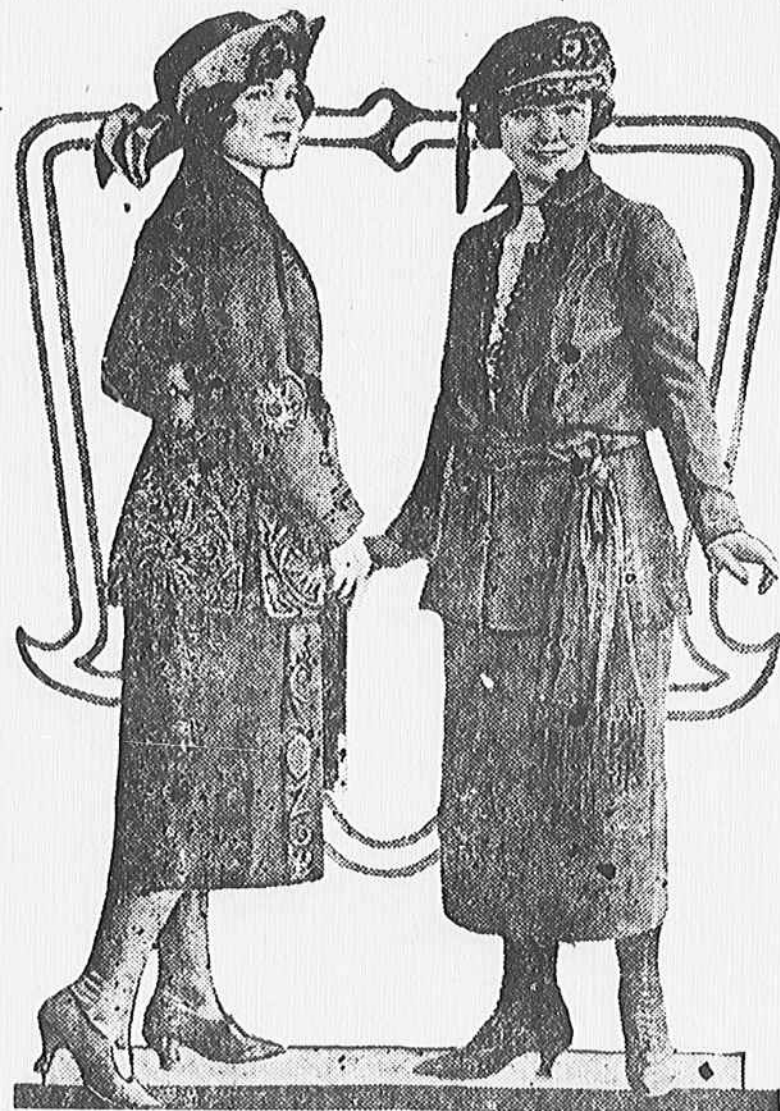
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Lace trimmed or embroidered; worth \$2.00. Very special for \$1.00.

Pongee tailored waists, worth \$5.00; only \$3.78.

Good quality twill Middy Blouses for \$1.00.

Big Special for This Week in Silks
36-inch all silk Messaline, all shades, for only \$1.50 the yard.

36-inch silk and cotton poplin, only 75c.

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